# MILLENNIAL STAR

The Monthly Magazine on MORMONISM

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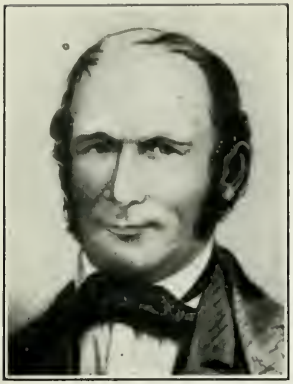

# HEBER C. KIMBALL— Pioneer, Missionary, Leader

OUTSTANDING in that group of courageous Pioneers who trod over plains and mountains, entering the Great Salt Lake Valley on July 24th, 1847, was Heber C. Kimball. It was in Victor, New York, where Brother Kimball first heard the Restored Gospel preached. He recognised it as the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, was later baptised by Joseph Young, and then immediately set out to carry this message of truth to others.

Having filled missions in Eastern and Northern United States, and having had many rich experiences wherein the power of the Lord was made manifest, Brother Kimball was called to head a group of six missionaries to England, where the Gospel had not hitherto been preached. It was Brother Kimball who preached the first sermon concerning the Restored Gospel in Great Britain. In his ten month's labour here he and his associates were instrumental in baptising over fifteen hundred persons and organising branches throughout England.

After filling a second mission in England and also in the Eastern States, Brother Kimball returned to Nauvoo where he remained until the forced exodus of the Saints. After many trying experiences from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters, Brother Kimball was selected as one of the famed one hundred and forty-eight to first reach the Valley of the Great Salt Lake.

In December, 1847, when Brigham Young was sustained as President of the Church, Brother Kimball was chosen as first counsellor in the Presidency. He carried on faithfully in this position until his death in 1868.

Heber C. Kimball was truly one of the greatest stalwarts in Church history. In the words of President Brigham Young, "He was a man of as much integrity, I presume, as any man who ever lived on the earth. . . . He has been a man of truth, a man of benevolence, a man that was to be trusted. . . . His heart was full of blessings; but he was a scourge to the wicked and they feared him." Brother Heber C. Kimball will long live in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints.

★ THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' ★

# MILLENNIAL STAR

108th Year SEPTEMBER 1947 Vol. 109 No. 9

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**THIS MONTH'S COVER — — — — — — — — — ST. GEORGE TEMPLE**

THE ST. GEORGE TEMPLE, located in the south-western corner of Utah, is the first temple to be erected in the Rocky Mountains, and the first temple to be erected without persecution by enemies. It was dedicated on April 6th, 1877, by President Daniel H. Wells. President Brigham Young, his counsellors, members of the Twelve, and many other leading brethren of the Church were present at the dedicatory services. Eileen Travis, reporter for the "Evening News" (London), describes the Temple in the August 29th issue as "lovely in the daytime and breathtaking at night when its whiteness is lighted by huge electric searchlights hidden in its lovely grounds and gardens."

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# FAITH AND THE GOSPEL

By Henry D. Moyle

Of the Council
of the Twelve

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WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE READERS OF THE "MILLENNIAL STAR"

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"WE believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."

This is the first Article of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Thus faith is recognised as the cardinal principle of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul says:

> "Through faith we understand that the worlds were formed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

And that

> "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

> "But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Faith is born of intelligence. It presupposes a rational belief in the existence of God and the divine mission of his Son, Jesus Christ. In the history of man we trace this belief in God back to Adam, the father of our race. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and commanded him to be obedient to His will. He gave him dominion over all, but placed certain restraints upon him. He forewarned him of the penalties of disobedience and promised him that certain blessings would follow his honouring the will of his Father.

Adam erred. God appeared, and as the result of his transgression Adam was cast out of the Garden of Eden. But the Lord did not forsake Adam. He gave him further instructions upon which his conduct thereafter should be governed. Among them, Adam was commanded to offer up sacrifices unto the Lord. This knowledge of the existence of his Creator, Adam transmitted to his posterity.

He likewise gave to his posterity for many generations the commandments he had received of the Father. We read of Cain and Abel offering sacrifices unto the Lord. Cain's sacrifice was rejected, but Abel's was accepted because it was offered in righteousness and in keeping with the commands of God and the teachings of his father, Adam.

It is interesting to follow the generations of man from Adam to Noah and from Noah to Abraham, and on down to Moses and finally to Christ, to see how thoroughly the knowledge of God and of His commands was disseminated through each generation among men. Many of the patriarchs of old were born before Adam died and were still living when Noah was born. The people of Noah's time were taught the will of the Father by those who had learned His will from Father Adam direct, and many lived in the days of Abraham who could testify that those who knew of God through the teachings of Noah had in turn imparted this knowledge to them.

From the time of Abraham there was likely never a people inhabited the earth but to some extent and in some form have had imparted to them from father to son, from generation to generation, that which was known to Father Adam in the beginning. Added to this knowledge thus disseminated through the ages are the testimonies of prophets of God who have heard His voice and received His revealed will, and taught it to the children of men. The prophets of old likewise

prophesied of the coming of Christ, and the faith of the righteous centered upon the happenings of this event.

From time to time the law and the Gospel have come to man directly from God. Moses, the Great Law-Giver, led his people out of bondage and into the wilderness, and through him the Lord gave His people the Ten Commandments. There have been several dispensations of time, in each of which the Lord has given new manifestations of his power and greatness to His people, until in the meridian of time He sent His only Begotten Son into the world that through him all men might be saved, for "as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Christ strove to teach His disciples while He was here on earth concerning His Father, telling them that He was in the exact likeness of His Father and that man is in His image. He gave the higher law, fulfilling the law of Moses, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, "The power of God unto salvation," by obedience to which man could be ushered back into the presence of God, the Eternal Father. He set them an example to be followed in all things. He suffered death that man might live. He was the first fruits of the resurrection and, as a resurrected being, appeared unto His disciples.

The faith of His followers was so complete that even death itself was not too great a sacrifice for them to make. They were happy to follow in the footsteps of their Master. At the death of Peter and Paul they each realised the perfection of Christ and their own mortal imperfections. Their courage was the result of a life of faith. They knew that God lives. They did not separate their faith from their actions, or their belief from their occupations. No doubt, no uncertainty existed in their minds about their earthly missions nor in their knowledge that they would be reunited with Christ after their death and resurrection. All of these events took place in the dispensation of the meridian of time. Thereafter there was an individual apostasy from the Church, which began in the days of the apostles.

**Henry D. Moyle**

Paul wrote the Galatians

**"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."**

**"Which is not another; but their be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."**

**"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."** (Gal. 1: 6, 7, 8)

This apostasy became general after the death of the apostles. It has often been spoken of, and there was in fact a universal apostasy throughout the church. Thus, with the passing of the dispensation of the meridian of time, and the absolute apostasy of the Church came the Dark Ages.

John the Revelator saw what would finally happen to again bring light and knowledge and truth eternal to a world in utter ignorance and confusion.

**"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that**

—continued on page 285

# Successful Mission Presidents' Conference held in Sweden

ON July 14th, President and Sister Selvoy J. Boyer and Elder Melvin M. Owens, Mission Secretary, left Northolt Airport bound for Malmo, Sweden, to be in attendance at the European Mission Presidents' Conference. Their flight took them over the east coast of England and across Holland and Germany. In three hours' time they had reached Copenhagen, Denmark, where a change of planes was made. In less than an hour, they had arrived at their destination—Malmo.

The representatives of the British Mission found Sweden to be a delightful place. They described the scenery of Sweden as breathtaking and the living accommodations as excellent. They remarked that prosperity was evident in this nation which has avoided war for over 130 years.

The conference sessions, under the direction of President Alma Sonne of the European Mission, began on July 16th. They were held in a beautiful, newly-decorated Swedish villa. The property had only recently been acquired by the Church. Formerly it had been used by the Danish consulate. Situated a short distance from the sea, it is a credit to the Church and is indicative of a decided trend toward finer meeting places for the Church in Europe.

The conference lasted until July 19th. During the sessions of conference, each mission president and his wife were called upon to report on the mission over which they presided. Questions and problems relating to the missions individually and collectively were thoroughly discussed. Each mission president gained a better understanding of the over-all picture of the Church and its problems in Europe.

In his report of the British Mission, President Boyer said, "Spiritually and morally, the members of the Church in Great Britain are in a most healthy condition. Physically, however, their condition is not satisfactory as their diet is lacking in necessary fats and oils. . . . Complete religious freedom is prevalent in every city in which we have elders labouring. Recent statistics show that nearly 90 percent of the British people are not actively affiliated with any religion. Thus there is a great opportunity if only we can reach the people. The elders find that there are many people spiritually sound and that are looking for the truth. . . . The British Mission has grown in the last fifteen months from twenty-nine branches to fifty-nine branches. Of these, only five are presided over by travelling elders."

Sister Boyer, in reporting the British Mission Relief Society activities, said, "There are now forty-five Relief Societies in the British Mission. . . . There was a very fine Relief Society exhibit at the Mission-wide conference. We are trying to make our programme as much like the programme in the stakes at home as possible. We are encouraging the Relief Societies to organise their visiting teachers. . . . We are encouraging home canning and are asking the people to prepare to look out for their own families."

At the conclusion of the conference, President and Sister Boyer and Elder Owens, along with the other mission presidents, their wives and secretaries, left on a night train from Malmo to Goteborg. At Goteborg, they boarded a boat and made the trip through the famous Goteborg Canal from Goteborg to Stockholm. The trip lasted three days, during which close associations were formed and further discussion as to mission problems took place along the quiet, peaceful waterways of Sweden.

—continued on page 283

# LET US PRAY

By Alma Sonne

PRAYER is a manifestation of faith. Every spiritual truth and all religious attainments have been achieved through prayer. It is an avenue of enlightenment.

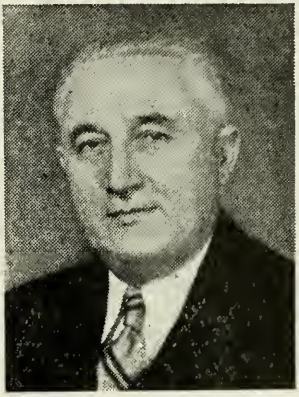
People who pray find peace and security for their souls. Prayer cleanses the heart and purifies the mind. It gives God an opportunity. No man's life is complete without the spiritual food provided through prayer.

Prayers are answered. Humble people who have turned to God in times of danger and emergency have found strength, courage, and protection.

In his deepest distress man cries to God for deliverance. "I have been forced to my knees with the overwhelming conviction I had nowhere else to go," said Lincoln. George Washington, the father of his country, prayed at Valley Forge. The British people prayed during the battle of Dunkirk. In his utmost extremity man is helpless and hopeless without God. Thoroughly humbled, he kneels in prayer and comes away triumphant. He does what is humanly impossible. Prayer has given stimulus and effectiveness to his strivings.

Jesus urged his followers to "pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass." Every life is beset with temptations and difficulties. Humanity is on the brink of despair and disillusionment. God's children are groping in darkness because they have refused guidance from the source of all light and intelligence.

No one who has travelled through the countries of Europe in recent months is blind to the distress which covers these lands. Mankind is confused and bewildered. Nations are sinking into a state of economic, moral and spiritual prostration. Family life is being disrupted; the moral fibre of



**Alma Sonne**

**European Mission President and Assistant to the Council of the Twelve**

men and women is weakening; churches are empty; spirituality is at a low ebb; economic stability is threatened; governments are in jeopardy and the world is sick with fearful doubts and endless misgivings. What is the answer to these haunting uncertainties? What is the conclusion to be reached from such a disheartening picture? Is it not that man without God has failed? Is it not an indictment against the infidelity and scepticism of a Godless and self-sufficient world?

The answer is, now and always, return to God and "worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water." (Rev. 14: 7) The hour has come to restore simple worship, family devotion in the home, a prayerful approach to daily problems, the landmarks of faith, and a sense of God's eternal laws. There is no other alternative. It is the one remaining solution to the moral and spiritual crisis which exists.

—continued on page 286

# SO THIS IS ZION

By Vivian Meik

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: The Author, Vivian Meik, formerly the diplomatic correspondent for "The People," has written another article especially for the readers of the "Millennial Star." Now a resident of Salt Lake City and busily engaged in writing a front page column for the "Deseret News," Vivian Meik extends his kindest regards to the British Saints.**

■

AFTER six weeks—the six most hectic weeks of my life—I feel that I am at least entitled to record my first impression of "the promised Valley."

Let me say at once that in many years of world travel I have seen no city that can compare either in straightforward town planning or in its potentialities for the future with Salt Lake City. This is not the lyrical outburst of an enthusiastic Latter-day Saint Church member, but the considered opinion of a blasé traveller.

I shall not give much space to a description of its natural beauties or its artificial improvements in the domain of scientific lighting and progress. Guide books and travel films will tell you all you want to know. I want to write of the people—the folk like you and me—whom I have met.

**To those whom I have left behind I would stress that while they have cause to envy my personal good fortune in being able to make my home here, they have no cause for personal regret that our Church in Britain is less virile than in Zion.**

**True, over here, there is all the glorious wonder of The Temple and The Tabernacle, but allowing for all that and the fact that here is the nerve centre of our great Church, our little services at Home are no less nearer in spirit to our Heavenly Father than the great attendances here.**

Speaking of attendances, I have been much impressed by the steadfast manner in which Salt Lake Saints attend to their Church practices. Every meeting, from a Sacrament Service where some famous speaker is scheduled to talk down to the Priesthood meeting in some small ward, is always fully attended.

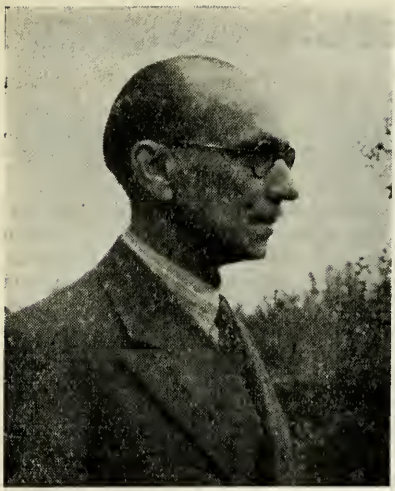
I have been impressed, too, by the superb business organisation of the Church. The Church offices—only a block away from the Temple—are undoubtedly the best of their kind in the world. Indeed, even counting the ornate Nazi Chancelleries in pre-war Berlin and Mussolini Suite in the Palazzio Venezia in Rome, I have seen nothing better arranged or more dignified.

I have, of course, met the Church authorities. Without exception, they welcomed me as if I had been an old friend instead of a stranger. Those of you who remember President Benson and his able secretary, Elder Babbel, will be glad to know they are well and going strong!

Another London ex-President I have seen several times is Hugh B. Brown, whom I regard with special esteem and affection. He was the first Saint I met of my own choice and it was he who first opened the door through which I walked into—Zion. When I saw him yesterday he asked specially to be remembered to his old friends in London. His memories of them remain fresh.

People often ask me what has impressed me most since my arrival.

There are, of course, a host of the "Usual Answers." One of them is the amazing welcome given by America to any newcomer whom she likes. I was lucky to get such a welcome, but to me that was not nearly so impressive as the spirit behind that welcome—the spirit which made that welcome as sincere as it was spontaneous.



Vivian Meik

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**I can only put it down to the spirit that both sustains and maintains the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Wherever I have been this welcome has been the same—overwhelming in its sincerity. It has made me feel at HOME from my first day here — at HOME in the fullest and greatest sense of the word.**

But life here is very different to existence at home. I shall not harrow your feelings by going into detailed raptures of the plenty and prosperity (all without coupons, dockets or Black Market) that one sees on all sides. I personally have not got over it yet.

What has, however, somewhat saddened me is that, in the midst of all these God-given blessings, more than a few of our Saints take both their faith and their security for granted. It is not that they are indifferent to their ideals but that they have not valued them by contrast with the hard and bitter realities of the more distant world. Few realise or appreciate the deep — and deadly — significance of what is happening in Europe in general and Britain in particular.

I have been doing a fair amount of speaking at Sacrament and other meetings and—if only because of my love for the faith in its widest application—never fail to hammer this fact home.

I must say that reaction is generally immediate. Folk come up to me afterwards and invariably say, "If we had only known . . ."

So to that extent, if I have brought you at home nearer to our brethren and sisters here I feel that I have not let you down.

Another of the facets that go to make up life here which has impressed me is the growing respect for our Church by non-members.

I noticed it in several intangible but none the less real ways ever since I arrived in America. For instance, when I happened to mention to the pilot of the plane that brought me over that I was bound for Salt Lake, he told me "You'll like those Mormons —they're the finest citizens America produces." He didn't have the slightest idea I was a member of the Church. Similar incidents occurred in New York and Chicago.

But perhaps most important of all is the acknowledgment of non-Mormons for Mormon ability outside purely religious matters and at the same time acknowledging that this is the direct result of the practice of our faith.

Here are today's two outstanding examples. The Canadian Government has requested Mormon irrigation experts to advise on and take charge of vast new Canadian developments, saying, "Mormon irrigation engineering and the Mormon system of regulating water laws are now the standard by which all great world irrigation projects must be judged."

The other is the arrival of Arab students who have come here from Mesopotamia to study water engineering at the University. They are the first of many—maybe there'll be a two way traffic before very long . . .

Yes, Zion is wonderful. . . . I hope to send you more news next month. Meanwhile here are greetings from your brother, Vivian Meik.

# Report on Scottish District

**(This is the ninth in a series of articles concerning the various districts of the British Mission. John S. McKay, "Millennial Star" reporter for the Scottish District, writes the following report concerning the District.)**

■

A SIGH is a mode of expression which can interpret a variety of moods and feelings. Twice in the recent history of this district has such an expression risen from the concerted lips of the Saints; a sigh pregnant with regrets and pain of parting when Zion's missionaries left these shores in 1939, and a heartfelt sigh of relief and welcome on their return.

How the Church survived in Scotland during the grim war years, is a story that doubtless could be told of many small branches and districts throughout the world; of how a small group of people, imbued with a knowledge of the truth of the divine mission of Joseph Smith, were determined, with God's help, to keep that knowledge alive.

Although deprived of much of its Priesthood by the call to National Service, the Scottish District was able to carry on under the leadership of its older men and ever-faithful sisters. Also, several Scottish Saints were active in the Mission Field.

Edinburgh Branch alone was forced to discontinue regular services. Nevertheless, many cottage meetings were held and some fine genealogical work was done.

Glasgow was fortunate in having Robert N. McQueen, returned from the R.A.F. service, to take over the Branch.

Aberdeen was perhaps the most isolated branch in Britain. Practically cut off from the rest of the country by travel restrictions, Aberdeen Branch, with most of its auxiliaries functioning, carried on under the leadership of Branch President Findlay.

At Airdrie, President T. M. Graham and James Martin continued faithfully in the administration of the Branch, even though the Church Hall was confiscated for A.R.P. purposes.

Scottish Saints who served missions at this time included Elder William Buchanan and Sisters Hazel Sands, Ethel Scott, Marion Peterson and Isa MacDonald. We in Scotland remember with gratitude the services rendered by Elders Willmott, France, Moore, Dyson, and Sisters Foster, Thomas, Ripley and Fletcher, as well as others whose names are cherished here and who took part in the "missionary campaign."

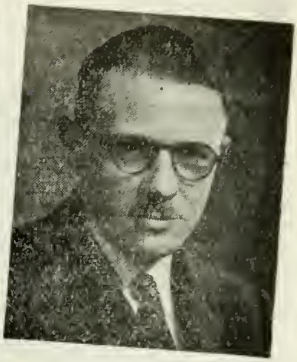
Despite the successes in keeping the Gospel alive in Scotland, war weariness and nerve strain were beginning to show. Then, like a cheerful bolt out of the blue appeared Elders Carl H. Whatcott and A. Wilford Fellows. The coming of these missionaries had the effect of water in a drought. The spirits of the Saints were revived; auxiliaries re-opened with the old zest; newly demobbed service personnel resumed their Church activities; and the District began to show indications of re-awakening.

Since the return of the emissaries of the Restored Gospel to Scotland, several baptisms have been performed. The Gospel Message has spread by tract, pamphlet, open-air meetings, and other means. The four branches are again operating with all auxiliaries. The opening of new territory is contemplated.

It is a far cry from the day when Scotland could boast of a membership exceeding 3,000, but who knows just what the future harvests may be? True Scottish loyalty and determination still exists. Allied to the zeal and acumen of Zion's Missionaries, these factors must bear fruit worthy in the sight of the Lord.

The testimony of Scotland's Saints was never stronger, and it is with confidence that we face the future.

# MESSAGE from the MISSION PRESIDENCY



WE extend to each and all our love and greetings as we inaugurate this new page in the **Millennial Star.**

As we contemplate the countless blessings which we all enjoy as Latter-day Saints, our thoughts turn to the glorious heritage that is ours in the field of music. No other people in all the world's history has been so blessed as the Latter-day Saints. Our hymns of praise, thanksgiving, and faith; our anthems, choirs, congregational singing, and choral groups; our splendid artists and musicians, all stand as shining evidence of the inspiration we have received from on high.

Basically the great progress of the Church has been made possible through the unity of our faith as reflected in our willingness to respect, sustain, and follow the leadership of those placed in authority over us. This proves equally true with good music. Without leadership and the support and "followship" of those being led, our efforts would result in mere mediocrity. Let us each and all be truly thankful for the musical leadership which is an integral part of this Church, and display our thanks and appreciation through our own participation and activity in music.

Every organisation in each branch of the Mission should have its organist and director. Sometimes in smaller branches, the same people will need to be given this responsibility in more than one organisation. As quickly as possible additional accompanists and leaders should be developed and thus the progression continues. Suitable hymns and songs for various meetings should be selected by the director and organist well in advance of the time they are to be used, thus giving a harmonious understanding between the person presiding over the meeting and the persons responsible for the music of the occasion.

Choose the appropriate songs or hymns for the occasion. Don't sing deeply solemn hymns for M.I.A., for example. Likewise, romantic ballads should be avoided in Sacrament meetings. There are many fine spirited songs in the Deseret Song Book for all occasions. Let us choose them wisely and well, thus affording to those in attendance the delightful variety of activity, purpose, and intent for which each organisation has been established.

Selvoy J Boyer
Wallace R. Reid
George H Tait

# M.I.A. MAPS PROGRAMME—For Coming Season

By Frank Hatton-Ward

**President of the British Mission Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association**

AS a send-off to the 1947-48 M.I.A. season, the M.I.A. Boards of the British Mission called an executive conference which took place at Nottingham on August 9th and 10th. M.I.A. delegates from as far as Brighton, Pontnewynydd, Glasgow, and Edinburgh were present for the conference. Peak attendance of seventy-six delegates was reached at the main session on Sunday morning.

The objective of the convention was that of preparing M.I.A. officers and officers-to-be for the coming winter programme. Because of this, the main session on Sunday morning was in the form of a business meeting, which proved to be most successful.

Acting as host, Wallace R. Reid, First Counsellor to the Mission President, Selvoy J. Boyer, arranged a very interesting model "fireside evening" on Saturday night. As great importance is being placed on "firesides" by the Church M.I.A. Board, President Reid, who has had considerable experience in M.I.A. work, discussed fully the various aspects of this subject.

During the Sunday morning session, President Reid announced that Winifred Bailey was to be released from her position as President of the Y.W. M.I.A. and that Alice Bickerstaff had been selected as the new president.

### UNIQUE HONOUR

A presentation was made by President Reid to Bertram R. Stokes, British Mission Scoutmaster and member of Birmingham Branch. The award was that of the Honorary Master M Men's pin and certificate. This is unique in the annals of the British Mission. Never before has the Honorary Master M Men's pin been awarded in the Mission. Only forty-eight similar awards have been made throughout the Church. The qualifications, as listed in the M Men Handbook, are as follows:

"Honorary Master M Men: In recognition of outstanding service to the young men of the Church and particularly in the M Men movement of the Y.M.M.I.A., it is hereby provided that men beyond the M Men age may be honoured with honorary recognition of the Master M Men Award. . . . Nominations are limited to those who have been really outstanding in the M Men movement, or, who have rendered conspicuous and distinguished service to the young men of the Church . . ."

President Reid said that he was "very happy to make this award in recognition of Brother Stokes's outstanding efforts on behalf of the Scouts in the Mission." During the past twelve months, Brother Stokes has been largely responsible for the organising of nineteen Scout Troops, an effort which will go a long way towards consolidating the strength of the Church in this country, and setting a target for other M.I.A. workers.

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Throughout the convention, the Mission Boards stressed the importance of all Branches aiming to organise their M.I.A.'s to conform as close as possible to the outlines mentioned in the M.I.A. Executive Manual and the various supplementary manuals.

In connection with this, on behalf of the Boards, I would like to say, first of all, that branch presidents who have no active M.I.A. in their branches

should endeavour to introduce the programme as soon as possible. At the moment, there are only thirty-two M.I.A.'s organised in the Mission. We desire that this number be increased considerably during the forthcoming season. Those M.I.A.'s that are already organised have much work to do to organise themselves completely.

In order to be really effective, each M.I.A. should be completely organised wherever possible. For instance, M Men and Gleaners will be sadly handicapped in their work unless Scouts and Senior Scouts, and Bee-hive Girls and Junior Girls are also organised. The target for all M.I.A. officers should be a fully organised M.I.A. by the end of December. The Boards realise that this is a big demand on the services and energies of the M.I.A. officers, but feel that if it is approached in a spirit of humility and with a desire to put all their energies into the work, rapid progress will be made.

In order to encourage the more complete organisation of M.I.A.'s in branches, the Mission Boards are preparing a scheme whereby honourable mention will be made in the **Millennial Star** for those branches which attain certain standards. The first class award will be made for a fully organised M.I.A., and second and third class awards will be made to those branches who have achieved specified standards to be announced shortly.

It is important that wherever possible, M.I.A.'s should follow the outlined course of lessons and study, and concentration upon any one particular angle of M.I.A. work to the exclusion of others, is to be definitely discouraged.

Not only is it the responsibility of the M.I.A. officers and members to boost the M.I.A. programme, but the general body of the Church must share the responsibility wherever possible and give active support at all times. Parents have an obligation to see that their children are active in M.I.A. They should set the example and personally attend M.I.A., and thereby learn of the enjoyment that can be derived from such inspired programmes as are put forward by the authorities in Zion.

**British Mission Scoutmaster Bertram R. Stokes is awarded Honorary Master M Men's Pin by Wallace R. Reid of the Mission Presidency**

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Those who attended the Conference at Nottingham were well rewarded. Much enthusiasm was aroused concerning future M.I.A. activities. 1947-48 promises to be a banner year for the M.I.A. in the British Mission.

## B.B.C. BROADCAST

THE history of the Church to be broadcast by the B.B.C. has still not been assigned a definite date. In the event that the broadcast is scheduled before distribution of the October **Star**, word will be released through the branches.

# REFLECTIONS ON THE WORLD JAMBOREE

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: The author, Elder Reed A. Benson and Elder Newell E. Warr have just returned from France where they served on the Central Staff of the American Delegation to the World Jamboree.)**

THE World Jamboree of Peace has just ended in France. Over 30,000 Boy Scouts of forty-two different countries are returning to their homes. A world jamboree is a large gathering of boys of different nations who have come together, regardless of colour, creed, or sect, with the solemn purpose of developing the world-wide spirit of Scout brotherhood and comradeship.

Having the good fortune to serve on the World Staff at the Jamboree, we were able to see many inspirational sights of Scouts from different countries working, sleeping, hiking, singing, and playing together. I recall to mind the closing ceremony of the Jamboree, where more than 30,000 assembled Scouts repeated the Scout Oath in their own language. Then the vast assemblage joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne." There were many wet eyes as Scouts of many nations saw their countries' flags across the arena for the last time at the Jamboree of Peace, and as they realised that this grand association that they had had with Scouts of other countries had come to an end.

To me the burning lesson of the Jamboree was this: I am extremely thankful to my Father in Heaven that I belong to His Church, whose leaders were inspired to incorporate this great movement into its organisation, and who, perhaps, sponsor it more successfully than any other like group. The Latter-day Saint boys, with Elder Oscar A. Kirkham, of the First Council of the Seventy, at their head, set a high standard before world scouters and officials.

Scouts and scouters throughout the various nations of the earth are confident that the Scouting programme will continue to grow and will play a great part in developing international brotherhood. As a large sign which hung above one of the Scottish camps reads:

"For a' that, and a' that
It's comin' yet, for a' that
That man to man, the warld o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that."

Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting has said, "It is for us to go forward as we have been doing, to go forward yet farther with full confidence to do our best to carry on and develop Scouting to the best of our ability."

—REED A. BENSON

# Excerpts from the "AMERICAN LETTER"

**AS BROADCAST BY ALISTAIR COOKE AND RELEASED BY THE B.B.C. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 21st**

(Printed by special arrangement with the B.B.C.)

IF you drive far in the United States and begin to see cars from many States, you cannot help noticing that on their licence plates many of them carry odd inscriptions, as well as the licence number. New Mexico—Land of Enchantment; Wisconsin—America's Dairy Land. As I drove down from the wonderful high mountain valleys of the Rockies, and west into the semi-desert of eastern Utah, I began to see that on all the Utah plates this year was a printed sentence —"This is the place" . . .

On July 23rd, 1847, they (the Pioneers) came to rest in a wilderness, and turned the waters of a narrow stream into little ditches to soften the land for ploughing. Next day they planted potatoes, the first crop planted here by white men. They ploughed this high desert and have been ploughing it ever since. They were twenty thousand at the start; today they are a million; probably the best organised, best disciplined society in the United States.

Very briefly, this is the Mormon doctrine. They believe that man is punished for his own sins and not for Adam's. They believe therefore in baptism and repentance. They believe literally in the restoration of the ten tribes and in the re-building of Zion on this continent. They forbid the use of tea, coffee, alcohol, tobacco and certain foods. Practical cleanliness is almost fetish with them, and through all the small towns and villages of Utah you notice a cheerful obsession with paint and well-kept, solid, simple houses. . . .

It is practically impossible to be a Mormon on Sundays and a regular guy the rest of the week. It is not that kind of religion. One of its most powerful institutions is the M.I.A., the Mutual Improvement Association. You may see movies made in Hollywood, but you cannot go on a hike, a picnic, a swimming party, a dance, a baseball game that is not run by the M.I.A. Somebody may wonder at this point about the frivolous words—party and dance—and one of the surprising things to a stranger, is to discover the enormous appetite the Mormons have for dancing and gay parties. They are. said an eastener who settled in Utah. the dancingest people.

Beginning at the age of twelve, the young Mormon boy or girl becomes a Mormon "Scout" or a "Bee-hive Girl." At fifteen they become "Explorers" and "Junior Girls." Their whole social life, from gardening to basketball and dancing, is organised around these age groups. Remembering their difficult pioneer past, every boy has to learn the very tough law of desert camping, woodcraft, trapping and military manoeuvres. They had organised this sort of thing, by the way, about fifty years before the Boy Scouts. At sixteen. they graduate in "Gleaner Girls" or "M Men," and for the next few years the boys court the girls with a certain caution due to the fact that the Church may call on them, as it does on five hundred young men every year, to serve their turn as a missionary. They have active missions all over Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the United States, and during that time, eighteen months away, no man may marry.

All this may seem merely quaint and puritanical to anybody in a great city who, on his way to the office, reads about the troubles of the Atomic Energy Commission and consoles him-

—continued on page 283

# ALEPPO – A Latter-Day Branch ●——In the World of Old——●

IT was in the Autumn of 1841 that an emissary of the Restored Gospel first arrived in the Holy Land. On Sunday, October 24th, Elder Orson Hyde, a member of the Council of the Twelve, ascended the Mount of Olives and dedicated the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews.

Nearly thirty-two years later, a party of Saints led by President George A. Smith arrived in Palestine. They, too, proceeded to the Mount of Olives and here re-dedicated and consecrated the land for the gathering of the Jews.

In mid-December, 1884, Elders George Naegle and Jacob Spori, both of whom had been labouring as European missionaries, proceeded south-eastward to Turkey. Although Elder Neagle was forced to return to Germany due to a lack of funds, Elder Spori proceeded on along to Constantinople (Istanbul) and commenced proselyting activities. In the course of a few months he was joined by other missionaries from Zion. They travelled throughout Turkey and Syria.

But the work was slow. The difficult Turkish tongue hindered their progress to no end. There were many controversies with Turkish officials as to the printing and distribution of religious material. Then, too, the mounting persecution of the Christians by the Turks was as a presage of forthcoming strife.

### EXODUS FROM AINTAB

In 1909 a new anti-Christian movement developed in Turkey which resulted in the deaths of many Christians. The missionaries were withdrawn and the Mission leadership was left under the direction of the local Saints for the subsequent twelve years. At the end of World War I, the powerful Ottoman Empire had crumbled. Syria and Palestine had become

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is based on a letter to the "Millennial Star" from Branch President Abraham Hindoian of Aleppo, Syria.**

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French and British mandates respectively. Once again representatives from Church headquarters visited the Holy Land. This time it was Elders David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon. As the Mission was now made up of Armenians, its name was changed from the Turkish to the Armenian Mission. Elder J. W. Booth was selected to serve as Mission President.

Once again political and religious contention sprang up. The Turks had threatened the extermination of all Armenians living within the confines of Aintab, the site where the Mission headquarters had been established. President Booth realised the seriousness of the situation and began immediate preparations for the evacuation of the Saints from Aintab to Aleppo. On a stormy December day, the Saints piled their belongings into some mule-drawn vehicles and proceeded along muddy roads towards their new home.

In 1933, the name of the Mission was once again changed: Armenian to the Palestine-Syrian Mission. During the period between the two great wars, the Mission was presided over by local members for a portion of the time, and by Elders from Zion during the remainder. As the World War II crisis developed, the missionaries were again withdrawn and the Saints relied solely on local leadership. To date there have been no missionaries called to this Mission since before the War.

### ALEPPO RICH IN RELIGIOUS HISTORY

The city of Aleppo today has one-third of a million inhabitants. Although most non-pedestrian traffic consists of

donkeys and camels, a few motor cars can be seen moving along the narrow streets. Its rich religious history and deep-rooted traditions give Aleppo an intermingling air of past and present.

Aleppo is located just thirty miles from the southern Turkish border; fifty miles from Antioch of New Testament significance. A short distance away is the historical Euphrates River flowing towards Ur of Chaldees, once the home of Abraham. According to tradition, Abraham also dwelled in Aleppo.

Today, the Aleppo Branch, although small in numbers (fifty-four members) is still carrying on faithfully with its meetings. These Saints are all the former natives of Aintab who fled because of the afore-mentioned Turkish threat.

Language difficulties still exist. Some Saints speak only in the Armenian tongue; others speak only in the Turkish tongue. Hymns are sung in three languages: Armeian, Turkish and English.

Regardless of languages, the Aleppo Saints enjoy singing the hymns of Zion. More than half the songs in the Turkish hymn book have been written by members of the congregation. The majority of these were composed by a local elder—Kevork Vezirian. The Armenian hymn book consists mostly of hymns translated from English.

The auxiliary organisations of the Aleppo Branch are all functioning. Sunday School, M.I.A., Relief Society, and Primary are held regularly. The Sunday School has functioned continuously for several years. It includes three classes: Kindergarten, Primary, and Gospel Doctrine.

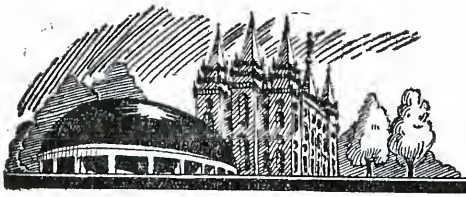
### ENTRIES IN CENTENNIAL CONTEST

Most of the Saints in Aleppo are engaged in rug-weaving and needle work as a livelihood. Rugs bearing likenesses of Brigham Young and the Seagull Monument have been sent to Salt Lake City as entries in the Centennial Art Contest.

The Saints of Aleppo have seen the power of the priesthood made manifest

—continued on page 286

**The Aleppo Branch of the Palestine-Syrian Mission. Photograph taken in June, 1947.**



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# MAN'S CHARACTER AND THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

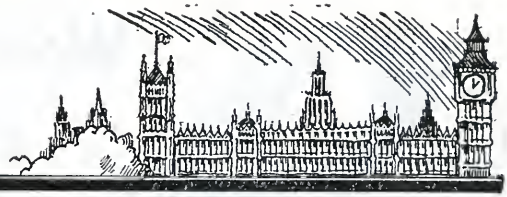
MANY individuals that we meet, in the course of their conversations, express a desire to develop their characters. There are one or two factors which an individual must consider if he is desirous of developing characteristics which will distinguish him—which will fit him for a complete and progressive way of life in this day and age of the world's history.

One very definite conclusion should be reached by every individual: that God was, and is, and ever shall be, and that we are His children. A firm conviction and knowledge that we are one of His, should lead a person to desire characteristics, attitudes and aptitudes which will eventually lead him back into the presence of his Eternal Father.

The commandments of God, as given to us in Holy Writ, if complied with, are as stepping stones to this exalted position. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," should be the desire in the heart of each individual. Such a desire will lead one to study the way of life which would direct him in paths of righteousness and, at the same time, enable him to develop an unimpeachable character.

One of the first things the Saviour taught and gave by way of commandment was that of prayer. "After this manner therefore pray ye," said our Master. He did not imply that we should merely repeat the Lord's Prayer verbatim, but rather that it was given as a pattern after which we should pray. Further, He said to His associates, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart . . . and thy neighbour as thyself." A desire to lift one's ideals and characteristics to such a plane that he can honestly love himself and thereby assist in loving his neighbour, will lead one closer to his Maker."

A clarion call which has rung down through the ages is the commandment of observance of the Sabbath day. In this age in the



world when men and women are doing everything in their power to avoid conforming to the law of the Sabbath Day; in this age when all of the enticements of the world are such that they lead one from the observance of the Sabbath, the Lord has said, "Thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day." Anyone who negelcts the Sabbath Day in his life is developing a trait which will not lead him close to his Maker.

Another characteristic which we should develop is stated in the Doctrine and Covenants as follows: "Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books of wisdom, seek learning, even by study and also by faith." One of the best known maxims of the Church is, "The glory of God is intelligence." The desire to learn is imperative to character building.

Alma, in speaking to his son, said, "Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness. And now, my son, all men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God; therefore, they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness. And now behold, is the meaning of the word restoration to take a thing of a natural state, and place it in an unnatural state, or to place it in a state opposite to its nature? O, my son, this is not the case; but the meaning of the word restoration is to bring back again evil for evil, or carnal for carnal, or devilish for devilish—good for that which is good; righteous for that which is righteous; just for that which is just; merciful for that which is merciful."

The teaching of Alma to his son seems as natural and as truthful as any doctrine that has ever been taught in scriptures to the inhabitants of this earth. It should be the desire of those who are striving to develop noble characters, to observe the commandments of the Lord and so shape their lives that the restoration of good for good will result in their possession of eternal characteristics patterned after the Saviour Himself.—Selvoy J. Boyer

# World Church News

**PRESIDENT TRUMAN HAILS CENTENNIAL.** — The following telegram was received from the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, and read at the dedication of the "This is the Place," monument on July 24th: "One of the great states of the union had its beginning a hundred years ago when Brigham Young looked out over the Valley of the Great Salt Lake and made his prophetic declaration: 'This is the Place.' On that memorable day when the vanguard of Latter-day Saints beheld for the first time the promised land, there had ended a 1,400-mile trek across the western country which will always stand as one of the greatest migrations in American history. The courage, sagacity and religious zeal of Brigham Young inspired his followers to endure hunger and thirst, disease and a hundred privations incident to the long march through a desolate and hostile country. But the valiant band triumphed and were joined later by the main body of Saints. Through their labours was fulfilled the prophecy of scripture and the desert was made to blossom like the rose. And now, a hundred years later, Utah stands in proud place among her sister commonwealths. Her rich agriculture, her business and industry, her pioneering in the social services, her zeal for education, and not the least, her men of wisdom and valiant women have given her a prestige unexcelled by any other state. It gives me great pleasure to send hearty felicitations and warmest personal greetings to all who participate in this notable Centennary."

**NEW CANADIAN MISSION PRESIDENT NAMED.**—Floyed G. Eyre, principal of the Weber Seminary at Ogden, Utah, and a member of the general board of the Y.M.M.I.A., has been appointed to head the Canadian Mission. President Eyre has served as head of the Weber Seminary for the past nineteen years, and as a member of the general board for the past eleven years. He is accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Harriet Robinson Eyre, and their daughter, Lael Eyre.

**FAVOURABLE PUBLICITY IN AMERICA.**—In line with Utah's Centennial, several American publications have heralded the anniversary with pictures and articles concerning the Mormon State. "Pathfinder," nationally circulated news magazine, featured a beautifully coloured picture of the Salt Lake Temple on the cover. This introduced an extremely favourable four-page article, including illustrations, entitled, "Utah—the Mormon Conquest."

**AUTHORITIES VISIT BRANCHES IN ALASKA.**—Elder Milton R. Hunter of the First Council of the Seventy and President Samuel E. Bringhurst of the Northwestern States Mission, and their wives, have just returned from a two-weeks' visit to the three branches located in Alaska. There are now more than three hundred Latter-day Saints whose memberships are in the Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks Branches. Missionaries are in Alaska for the first time in several months.

# The Church in Europe

**PRESIDENT HENRY MATIS OF THE FINNISH MISSION ARRIVES.** —President Henry Matis of the new Finland Mission arrived in Goteborg, Sweden, August 11th, 1947, and is now getting established at the Mission headquarters in Helsingfors. Accompanying him is Sister Matis, their four sons, and President Matis' mother. President Matis was in the presidency of the Chicago Stake at the time of his call to be the first president of the Finnish Mission. He speaks and writes Finnish fluently. He and his family drove their car through northern Sweden to Haparanda, then to Torneo, Finland, and down to Vasa, where President Matis' mother's relatives live, before going south to Helsingfors. Branches of the Church in Finland are in Helsingfors, Abo, and Larsmo. Members in the first two have been in the Church but a few months.

**PIONEER CONFERENCES HELD THROUGHOUT EUROPE.** — Conferences honouring the Pioneers and Utah's Centennial have been held in July and August in Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Germany. In **Sweden** the M.I.A. had charge of the conference, held from July 22nd to 24th in Stockholm. Visiting mission presidents were featured in sessions of the first two days. The **Danish Mission** conference held in Copenhagen, July 24th to 27th, was one of the largest conferences ever held in the Danish Mission. Five hundred people gathered at a public meeting to hear the visiting mission presidents, and large crowds witnessed the play, and participated in the other activities of the conference. The Copenhagen papers gave much favourable publicity to the event. One published individual pictures of wives of mission presidents with a statement from each.

The **Holland** conference, attended by 1,100 people at the pageant, August 2nd, and the meetings, August 3rd, in Amsterdam, was an inspirational event. President and Sister Alma Sonne of the European Mission were on hand. The programme August 2nd included choir numbers, orchestra selections, solos, and dramatic sketches. A stirring spirit existed in the Sunday sessions of this conference. There are between 3,000 and 4,000 members in the Netherlands Mission and the attendance of 1,100 at conference sessions is praiseworthy.

In **Dresden, Germany,** Saints of the East German Mission gathered to honour the Pioneers July 26th. Special trains and buses were arranged to bring members to the site of the celebration.

**COUNSELLORS IN SWEDISH MISSION.**—With the approval of the First Presidency, President Alma Sonne set apart on July 19th as counsellors in the Swedish Mission Presidency Elder Isaac Thunnell as first counsellor and Elder Claes Persson as second counsellor. Both are experienced missionaries. Elder Thunnell, whose wife and daughter are also in Sweden as missionaries, is a former president of the Swedish Mission.

**PRESIDENT SONNE AGAIN VISITS GENEVA.**—The press of welfare business took President Sonne to Geneva again August 19th to confer with relief officials.

# British Mission

## APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

**Elder GEORGE P. MARCHANT** was transferred on August 1st from the Sheffield District to the Liverpool District.

**Elder WILFORD A. FELLOWS** was transferred on August 2nd from the Birmingham District to the Liverpool District.

**Elder BYRON WILLIAM McINTYRE** was transferred from the Liverpool District to the Birmingham District on August 5th.

**Elder LAMAR T. EMPEY** was transferred from the Norwich District to the Birmingham District on August 19th.

**Elder THOMAS HARPER** was transferred on August 19th from the Birmingham District to the Norwich District.

**Elder RICHARD WILLIAM CLAYTON** was appointed District President of the London District on August 13th.

**Elder WILLIAM RICHARD WAITE** was transferred from the Irish District to the London District on August 28th.

**Elder BRUCE E. PETERSON** was released as District President of the Newcastle District and transferred to the London District on August 20th.

**Elder KOLN GUNN McKAY** was appointed District President of the Nottingham District on August 25th.

**Elder WILLIAM L. BLACKWELL** was appointed District President of the Norwich District on August 17th.

**Elder KENNETH M. OSWALD** was appointed District President of the Newcastle District on August 20th.

**Elder GEORGE P. MARCHANT** was transferred from the Liverpool District to the London District on August 22nd.

**Elder CLARENCE L. OLSEN** was transferred from the London District to the Newcastle District on August 20th.

**Elder ALBERT N. CHASTON** was transferred from the Leeds District to the Norwich District on August 22nd.

**Elder CONNEL M. WHITEHEAD** was released as Supervising Elder of the Norwich District and transferred to the Leeds District on August 22nd.

**Elder JOSEPH HENRY CROWTHER** was transferred from the Nottingham District to the Norwich District on August 29th.

## RELEASES

**Elder WILFORD LEO ISGREEN** and **Sister FLORA L. M. JONES ISGREEN** were released as missionaries to the British Mission on August 19th. Elder and Sister Isgreen, prior to their departure for Great Britain, had laboured sixteen months in the East Central States Mission. While in Britain, the Isgreens have laboured in the Newcastle and Scottish Districts.

# DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

## BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

**Reported by Nancy Tenney**

Despite the torrential downpour of rain on Monday, August 4th, the members of the Kidderminster Branch, along with the missionaries of the District, convened at the Chapel, and from thence travelled to Porthcawl, Wales. Much of the beauty of rural England and Wales was seen on the long journey. Members and missionaries of the Welsh District joined the party at its destination. During the day, stops were made at Monmouth and Malvern. The Saints were delighted to see scenes of international fame, and scenes so often painted by the inspired artist.

The following brethren were released from the Birmingham Branch Sunday School superintendency: Roland F. Collins, Superintendent; Samuel Jevons, First Assistant; and John M. Evans, Second Assistant. The following brethren were sustained as the new superintendency: W. Ivor Thomas, Superintendent; John M. Evans, First Assistant; A. Ira S. Parks, Second Assistant. Richard C. Thomas was released as Second Counsellor in the Branch Presidency and Priesthood class leader. Frederick Webb was sustained as Second Counsellor in the Branch Presidency. William L. Buchanan will serve as priesthood class leader.

A baptismal service was held in the Birmingham Branch Chapel on August 16th. Those baptised were as follows: Hilda Muriel Hirons, baptised by E. John S. Jones and confirmed by Elder David W. Meyer; John N. E. Hancock was baptised by E. John S. Jones and confirmed by Frederick Webb; David T. Craig was baptised by Philip Craig and confirmed by Branch President Wm. St. John Yates; Ruth P. Jordon was baptised by Philip Craig and confirmed by Frederick Webb; Joseph P. O'Callahan was baptised by District President Charles L. Norton and confirmed by Elder David W. Meyer.

## BRISTOL DISTRICT

**Reported by Frances B. Herman**

The M.I.A. organised a "summer concert" on Tuesday, July 22nd. "Volunteers" were obtained by various methods to take part in a programme of Twenty Questions. Characterisations, a most lively debate, a duet by Pat Carey and Wesley G. Bowen, and a sketch given by three M.I.A. officers, added to the success of a very pleasant evening enjoyed by the forty people in attendance.

Cedric Terence Armstrong of Weston-Super-Mare was baptised on July 26th by Elder Hugh A. McLean and confirmed by Desmond R. Armstrong.

## HULL DISTRICT

**Reported by Helen Bryant**

In the Grimsby Branch, cottage meetings are being held regularly after Sacrament meetings on Sunday evenings at the homes of the members of the Branch.

The M.I.A. of Grimsby Branch is holding regular M.I.A. summer programmes consisting of visiting places of historical interest.

On Monday, August 5th, the Grimsby M.I.A. cycled into Lincoln, visiting the castle and the cathedral. Many pictures were taken, thus recording a very pleasant time enjoyed by all participating in the ride.

Cycling seems to be a favourite pastime in the Grimsby Branch. The M.I.A., on August 6th, made a round trip of approximately thirty miles, calling in at Laceby, Riby Swallow, and then home to Grimsby.

The Hull Branch Sunday School officers organised a very successful

social on Wednesday, August 13th. Approximately forty-five people enjoyed a programme of games and dancing. Highlights of the evening were the hat trimming contest for men only, two vocal solos by Elder Albert Eccles, two numbers by the missionary quartette, and a group of Negro spirituals by two young boys of the Sunday School. Refreshments were served during the evening. Branch members were glad to welcome friends whom the missionaries have contacted during their stay in the Hull Branch. Proceeds from the social are to be used for Sunday School activities.

### IRISH DISTRICT
**Reported by Grant Dalton**

The Belfast Branch of the Irish District has been reorganised as follows: Elder Albert Walker, Branch President; Frank Dunn, First Counsellor; Robert Collins, Second Counsellor; and Ann Dunn, Chorister. Branch organisation is now complete. Officers of the Branch presidency and the auxiliary organisations were sustained at Branch Conference held on August 10th.

The branches are showing improvement and growth, and very fine contacts have been made. The District is eagerly awaiting District Conference to be held in Belfast on the 14th of this month.

### LEEDS DISTRICT
**Reported by George Pitts**

At the request of Mission President Selvoy J. Boyer, an invitation was extended to all those kind people who had so graciously opened their homes to the Saints during the Bradford Convention, to attend a special social held at the Bradford Chapel on July 21st. The missionaries felt that they were repaid for their labours in securing accommodations as they welcomed their friends to the evening's entertainment. The programme, under the direction of George Pitts, commenced with a song by the Bradford Bee-hive Girls and two short talks by Brenda McCormick and Irene Firth. A Yorkshire dialect reading by George Pitts, a vocal solo by Mrs. Muriel Weatley, a musical number by the Ledgard sisters, was followed by remarks expressing appreciation by Elder Ralph Jack. The programme was concluded with another song by the Bee-hive Girls, directed by Gladys Goldthorpe and accompanied by Hilda Firth. An appetising dinner prepared by the District Relief Society, games, and community singing, rounded out a delightful evening's entertainment. This social has resulted in additional attendance at Branch meetings.

On July 26th. Saints and friends from Bradford and Dewsbury Branches assembled at the Town Hall Square, Bradford, and proceeded on to Myrtle Park, Bingley, where the two branches held a joint outing.

Temple Newsome was the scene of another outing on August 2nd. Forty members and friends of the Leeds and Bradford Branches, including four German brethren stationed near Leeds, were in attendance.

Bradford Branch Beehive Girls recently held an outing at Chellow Dene, a beauty spot near Bradford. The climax of the day was "peaches and cream" for all.

Attendance at open-air meetings held along Broadway in Bradford is increasing. The meetings are under the direction of District President Albert C. Walker. All eight of the missionaries of the District participated.

Members of the Bradford Branch enjoyed an inspiring Primary Service on Sunday evening, August 3rd. Gladys Kimberley, Primary Mother, conducted the service and Nellie Robertshaw furnished the music for the various musical items. The principle speakers were Marjorie McCormick, Lucy Tenney and Elder Ralph Jack.

### LONDON DISTRICT
**Reported by Frank Smith**

On June 16th, the Gravesend Branch held a farewell party in honour of Elder and Sister Arthur V. Nettleship just prior to their transfer to the Hull

District. All the thirty members present wished them well on their new assignment.

Tuesday, July 29th, was the date of the Gravesend Sunday School outing. The outing included an enjoyable drive through Kent to the sea coast, a swim, and a lovely dinner served to thirty-five members and friends. The afternoon was spent in playing games, in taking a motor launch trip, and in visiting the fair grounds. The group returned, tired, but happy, with thoughts already formulated for next year's outing.

Dorothy Edith Barry was baptised by Elder Frank M. Carlisle and confirmed by Elder Richard W. Clayton on August 7th, in the South London Branch Chapel.

On August 17th, Joan Winifred Emmins was baptised by Herbert S. Bickerstaff and confirmed by Richard W. Clayton. She is a member of the South London Branch. On the same day, Jean Evelyn Chipping of St. Albans was baptised by William O. Chipping and confirmed by Elder Clarence Olsen.

On July 26th, the South London Branch celebrated Pioneer Day with a trip to Ashtead Forest. Pioneer stories and games were the features of the afternoon. Arrangements were under the auspices of the M.I.A.

Several Saturdays have been spent by members of the Catford Branch in welfare work. Fifty pounds of fruit has been gathered and preserved. Blackberries, loganberries, and gooseberries will make up most of the Catford contribution.

Plans are projected for the organisation of a Relief Society in Catford Branch. All of the sisters in the Branch and their friends are invited to take part in the varied programme of activities it will offer.

A branch outing was sponsored by the St. Albans Relief Society on August Bank Holiday Monday. Thirty members enjoyed games and lunches at the St. Albans lakeside.

The St. Albans Sunday School outing was made on Saturday, August 9th, to the London Zoo. A party of twenty children and teachers had a most enjoyable time.

## MANCHESTER DISTRICT

**Reported by Norman Woodhead**

On Saturday, July 19th, the Rochdale M.I.A. sponsored a dance. Approximately 120 people enjoyed the dancing and had a most enjoyable evening. Refreshments were served by the Gleaner Girls. Rochdale M Men shared the other responsibilities.

On Friday, July 25th, the Rochdale M Men played the "Hallows" Methodist Youth Club at cricket, and won by 47 runs to 45. On Wednesday, August 13th, a return game with the Castleton Roman Catholic Youth Club resulted as follows: Catholic Youth Club 37. M.I.A. 28.

The Rochdale Gleaner Girls, under the leadership of Enid Kay, have prepared and redecorated a room in the Chapel for their own use.

On Sunday, July 20th, the Rochdale Branch held its Branch Conference. The opening session was held at 11.0 a.m. under the direction of Fred Waddington, Sunday School Superintendent. In the afternoon, the M.I.A. held a youth session, Y.M.M.I.A. President John F. Leach presiding. The final session was held at 6.0 p.m., with Branch President Sylvester H. Dale presiding. The speakers were Herbert and Norman T. Woodhead and District President George W. Bruerton. The theme of the Conference was "The Plan of Salvation."

After a lapse of about thirty years, Stockport (population 130,000) is now the scene of activity for Elder Charles E. Scott and Frank P. Reese. A series of weekly lantern lectures in colour commences August 20th and will continue for several weeks. In addition

to regular tracting, street meetings are now being held.

At Radcliffe, Elders Joseph K. Cross and Robert L. Shaw addressed a group of fifty ladies of the Black Moss Methodist Mission on the Ninth Article of Faith. An invitation to speak at the Men's Bible Class at the Ainsworth Methodist Church has been accepted for August 31st.

Recently, President Bruerton occupied the pulpit at the Brotherhood Church in Middleton Junction and has been asked to furnish a speaker for the Young Men's Discussion Class on October 6th. Following a meeting with the ladies' organisation of this church, President Bruerton has arranged for a number of the sisters of the Relief Society of Oldham and Rochdale to conduct lessons at a later date in autumn.

August 14th marked the completion of forty years of married life for President and Sister Bruerton. The missionaries of the District were entertained at tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Gaskell of Denton, followed by an evening of slides and pictures taken by Elders Davis and Reese during their missionary travels. On August 16th, they were the guests of honour at a banquet at the home of President and Mrs. Woodruff of Hyde. Following an evening of music and fun, a beautifully decorated cake made by the hosts was cut and appropriate toasts were drunk.

## NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

**Reported by George T. Sonntag**

On August 12th, a baptismal service was held in the Sunderland Chapel. A new convert, Ralph Ernest Blakeburn, was baptised and confirmed by President Frederick W. Oates, of the Sunderland Branch.

During the last month, two new branches have been opened in the Newcastle District.

On July 13th, the South Shields Branch was re-opened after being amalgamated during the war with the Sunderland Branch. Its new and able president is Charles M. Ellwood. Charles Rappley has organised an M.I.A. programme for the Branch. Relief Society and Sunday School are also functioning.

The latest branch to re-open is the Middlesborough Branch, which now holds its services in the Amalgamating Engineering Building. The new branch president is Sidney Featherstone. The opening meeting was attended by Elders Carl Whatcott, Dean U. Ottley, and District President Bruce E. Peterson. There were thirty-two people in attendance. In days long past when the Middlesborough Branch was organised, it had an M Men and Gleaner group numbering over a hundred young people. Most of these people were non-members, but all were active in the programme for the young people. Only the Sunday School has been organised in this branch, but the other auxiliaries are scheduled to follow soon.

A rather unique proselyting opportunity was afforded the missionaries when they spent two week-ends at a Boy Scout camp in the town of Stanhope on the beautiful local moors. Each Sunday evening, Church services were held. On July 27th, District President Bruce E. Peterson and Elder George T. Sonntag held a wonderful meeting in a large tent with about twenty-five people in attendance. A fine spirit prevailed and an excellent chance of relating the story of Joseph Smith to these young people was taken advantage of. The next week, Elder Kenneth Oswald and Elder Douglas W. Loosle stayed at the camp and held another meeting. This one was attended by thirty-five people. Many of those in attendance showed a marked interest in the many things that were said.

## NORWICH DISTRICT

**Reported by Alfred F. Woodhouse**

Norwich Branch M.I.A. banquet, postponed from last May due to other events in the Branch, was held on July 22nd. A large group of members and

friends partook of a hearty meal, and joined the celebrations which followed. Tribute was paid to Olive Rayner, President of the Y.W.M.I.A., for her fine work in the organising of this event.

On July 26th, a social was sponsored by the Norwich Branch Relief Society at which funds were raised towards welfare work. A special feature of the evening was a "burlesque band scene," led by Branch President Tom Watts, and conducted by Tom Wilson, which performed under the name of "Wacky Watts and his Wackateers." Refreshments were served during the evening. A large group of members and friends were in attendance.

Norman Booker and Myra Wicks were sustained and set apart as Second Counsellors in the Norwich Branch Y.M.M.I.A. and Y.W.M.I.A., respectively, on Sunday, July 6th.

Elders Lamar T. Empey and William R. James and Sisters Betty Mitchell and Clora Chidester paid a return visit to the members of an institute for the blind on July 29th. Instrumental and vocal numbers were rendered. Gospel discussions followed.

## NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT

**Reported by Ruth Gates**

A company of seventy-five pioneers were rained out of their encampment on the banks of the River Trent, but their spirits were not dampened by the wet weather as they made temporary quarters at the District Mission Home. Dressed in their 1847 Sunday best, the Saints and missionaries of Nottingham District participated in a pageant depicting the Pioneers' trek across the plains. Campfire singing, dancing, instrumental numbers, and skits were enjoyed along the trail. They were, however, disrupted by an occasional Indian attack.

Many summer activities have already been enjoyed by the recently organised Derby Primary, with Geraldine Anthony as Primary Mother. Finances of the forthcoming Children's Outing to Loughborough was the object for the party sponsored by the Eastwood Branch Primary, under the direction of Primary Mother Eva Wild.

Leicester and Loughborough have recently held their branch conferences. The branches are showing continual development, evidenced by the co-operation and enthusiasm of officers, teachers, and members. A Sunday School has been organised in Loughborough with Joyce Bowler as superintendent.

Eberhard Schaerrer, a member from Heilbroah, Germany, and seven of his companions, attended Sacrament Services at Moorby Prisoner-of-war Camp, arranged by Elder Albert Hopkinson and the other missionaries.

Second Counsellor Sydney Hill of the Eastwood Branch Presidency has made a beautiful grained pulpit and railing as part of the remodelling project of the Eastwood Branch Hall.

Fragrant flowers and soft candlelight was the setting for the District Gleaner Comradery, with Sister Gladys S. Boyer as guest of honour.

## SHEFFIELD DISTRICT

**Reported by Arvilla Smith**

A farewell dinner and social evening was held August 1st in the Barnsley Branch meeting hall on behalf of Elder George P. Marchant, who has been transferred to labour in the Liverpool District. An appropriate programme was arranged by the Barnsley M.I.A. officers. A token of respect was presented by Branch President Fred K. Birkhead.

## WELSH DISTRICT

**Reported by Gladys Mason**

The Merthyr Tydfil Branch is showing signs of progress under the leadership of Elder Edward R. Shurtliff, Branch President. With his companion, Elder Lorry E. Rytting, as Branch Clerk, he has directed the activities of the Branch since June 8th. With the exception of the M.I.A., which has been suspended during the summer vacation, all the auxiliary organisations are functioning. Sunday School is under

the direction of W. E. Pulman. The M.I.A. is officered by Tom Price, Jack Griffiths and Marcel Pulman, while the Relief Society leaders are Gladys Price, Margaret Williams, and Peggy Pritchard. The Primary is made up of from twenty to thirty children, who are almost entirely non-members. Plans are being made to carry out a Bee-hive and Scouting programme when the M.I.A. is resumed on September 17th.

Merthyr Tydfil Branch Conference was held on July 13th, with the District officers in attendance. Speakers for the occasion were President and Sister George Q. Bennett and Elder Shurtliff.

A baptismal service was held on July 21st at which Jean Davies and Joan Pulman were baptised by Elder Shurtliff. They were confirmed on August 3rd by Elders Lorry E. Rytting and William C. Stone, respectively.

The Relief Society of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch has grown rapidly since it was organised in July. Gladys Davies is heading the work, with Sister Bennett assisting. A social was held on August 6th, at which a fish and chips supper was enjoyed by all. A fine programme was presented, featuring musical selections by Jean Davies, President George Q. Bennett, Elder Shurtliff, and Mary Price. Readings were given by Elder Rytting. The proceeds from the party were added to the Relief Society fund.

Plans are under way to have the Merthyr Tydfil Chapel completely renovated in preparation for the District Conference, which will be held on the 28th of this month.

Pontypool Branch Primary was held on Sunday, August 3rd, when duets, recitations and choruses were rendered by the Primary children of Abergavenny and Pontypool.

On August 2nd, District Union Meeting was held at Pontypool. Many useful subjects were discussed. A choral practice, under the direction of Elder Stone of Cardiff, followed.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES

### BIRMINGHAM, NORWICH, NOTTINGHAM

THE first three of the 1947 autumn series of district conferences were held at Birmingham, Lowestoft, and Nottingham on August 10th, 17th, and 24th, respectively. The large attendances and the fine spirit which prevailed was indicative of the continuous growth and increasing spirituality of the British Mission.

The Birmingham District Conference was held in the Handsworth Chapel in Birmingham and was under the direction of District President Charles L. Norton. Visiting Mission authorities included President and Sister Selvoy J. Boyer, and Second Counsellor George F. Poole.

The opening session included introductory remarks by President Norton and a report by the branch presidents of the District. The Relief Society and Priesthood then separated for individual instruction.

Speakers for the afternoon and evening sessions of conference included the Mission authorities, missionaries from the District and the Mission Office, and three visitors from America: Gerald Smith, Margaret Jean Cooper, and John Hunsaker. Musical highlights of the conference were vocal numbers by Winifred Stokes, Mrs. J. H. Makin, Doris Green, George Makin, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Webb, and the Handsworth Relief Society Sisters' Chorus.

Peak attendance was reached at the evening session of the conference at which 182 persons were present. This is an increase of fifty over the previous Birmingham District Conference.

The Norwich District Conference was held in Lowestoft at the Branch

Chapel under the direction of District President Frank M. Coleby and his counsellors, Albert A. Cole and Alfred F. Woodhouse. Visiting authorities included President and Sister Alma Sonne of the European Mission, President and Sister Boyer, President and Sister Wallace R. Reid, and President Poole, all of the British Mission.

On the Saturday preceding the conference, a dinner prepared by the Lowestoft M.I.A. was served. Following, a softball match between Lowestoft and Norwich was presented.

After the opening exercises of the morning session of the Norwich District Conference, the Priesthood and Relief Society met separately to discuss matters pertaining to their work. Speakers for the afternoon and evening sessions were the Mission authorities and the missionaries.

During the evening session, the Norwich District Presidency, Frank M. Coleby, Albert A. Cole, and Alfred F. Woodhouse, were released, and Elder William L. Blackwell was sustained as President of the District.

Musical numbers for the conference session were rendered by the Lowestoft Branch Choir, District Relief Society Chorus, Barbara Judd, Mildred Jennis, Sister Betty Mitchell and Elder Lamar T. Empey.

The Nottingham District Conference was held in the Y.M.C.A. Building at Nottingham under the direction of President Wallace R. Reid. Visiting authorities included the Mission Presidency.

On the Saturday preceding the conference, the Nottingham Elders defeated the Nottingham local Y.M.C.A. in an exhibition basketball game by the score of 26 to 23. In the evening, the Nottingham District M.I.A. presented an evening's entertainment consisting of a one act play, exhibition dances, skits, and choral and solo numbers.

The opening session of the Nottingham Conference was devoted to Priesthood and Relief Society work. Speakers for the remaining session were the Mission authorities, District and Mission Office missionaries and local brethren George Gent, George Bradley, George Sunderland, and Joseph Orton.

During the evening session, President Reid was released as district president and Elder Koln Gunn McKay was sustained in this position.

## SUCCESSFUL MISSION PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE HELD IN SWEDEN

—continued from page 260

On landing at Stockholm, the party was met by several photographers and newspapermen, who gave very favourable publicity to the group and their conference in Sweden. After attending meetings in Stockholm, the mission presidents, their wives and secretaries prepared to return to their respective missions.

The European Mission Presidents' Conference was an outstanding success. Everyone in attendance was spiritually uplifted by the advice and counsel given by President Sonne, and by the exchange of the mission presidents' reports.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE "AMERICAN LETTER"

—continued from page 269

self for being in touch with reality. It might be a gruesome point to decide who would be better off in the day of our atomic doom. For there is a stubborn, fruitful core of philosophy in the Mormons, that age does not wither, nor atom bombs terrify. Their passion for health and cleanliness is based in the belief that you will appear in the next life housed in a body just as fit or exhausted as the one you left behind in this life. Said a Mormon farmer last week, "You have to die one way or another, pneumonia or atom bombs, it doesn't matter much which, it's the way you keep it going in health that's going to count in the long run."

# PERSONALS

## BIRTHS

**GILES.** — Susan Giles, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas Giles of the Sheffield Branch was born July 12th, 1947, and blessed August 3rd by Herbert Bailey.

**TEALE.**—Jean Teale, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Teale of the Rochdale Branch was blessed by District President George W. Bruerton.

**WILLIS.** — Elizabeth Marilyn Willis, infant daughter of David R. and Annie Thomason Willis of the Liverpool Branch, born on May 29th, was blessed on July 6th by her father.

**GILLINGS.**—Trevor James Gillings, infant son of Mr. John P. and Mrs. Irene Gillings of the St. Albans Branch, born on June 15th, was blessed on August 3rd by William O. Chipping.

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**TEALE.**—Geoffrey Teale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Teale, was blessed by Fred Waddington on July 6th in the Rochdale Branch.

**McCUIG.** — Alice Elizabeth McCuig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angus McCuig, was blessed by her grandfather, Fred Waddington, on July 6th, in the Rochdale Branch.

## MARRIAGES

**HARDY-HELLIWELL.** — On Saturday, June 28th, in the Burnley Chapel, Emma Hardy and James H. Helliwell were married. The ceremony was performed by Burnley Branch President John R. Moore.

**RUSSELL-SNELLING.** — On August 4th, Ivy Russell and Leslie Snelling, members of the Gravesend Branch M.I.A., were married. A party was given in their honour at the Gravesend Chapel on July 28th, under the direction of Branch President Victor L. Palmer.

## DEATH

**SUTHERLAND.** — Janet Sutherland, a member of the Aberdeen Branch, died of cerebral hemorrhage on August 8th. Funeral services were held on August 11th and were conducted by Branch President George Findlay. Elder R. Eyre Turner gave a short address. Elder Junior E. Call dedicated the grave.

## EMIGRATIONS

**BREWIS.** — Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie Brewis and their daughter, Ann, and their son, George, left for America aboard the "Queen Mary." A delightful social in their honour was held in the Gateshead Branch Hall on July 23rd.

**WAPPETT.** — Joan Wappett, former **Millennial Star** reporter for the Newcastle District, sailed for America aboard the "Queen Elizabeth" on August 9th. She will attend the Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah.

**WALTON.** — Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walton and family left on August 14th from Southampton aboard the "Marine Falcon." They are planning to make Ogden their new home.

**STARKEY.**—Jean and Alec Starkey and their daughter, Shauna, all of the Burnley Branch, left Southampton on July 18th, aboard the "S.S. America," to sail for America. They are now living in Mink Creek, Idaho.

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### APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATIONS for the 1948 Scholarship to the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, are now acceptable. Applicants should write to President Selvoy J. Boyer, 149 Nightingale Lane, Balham, London, S.W.12.

## FAITH AND THE GOSPEL

—continued from page 259

**dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.**

**"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water."** (Rev. 14: 6, 7)

With the passing of this dispensation, followed by the Dark Ages, came the opening of the dispensation of the fullness of times, when all that had gone before was again revealed to the earth. New witnesses for God were raised up with the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to mankind, the re-opening of the heavens and the divine vision of Joseph Smith, the visitation of angels to Joseph Smith and to the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon. The Book of Mormon was brought forth by divine aid, thereby giving to us the teachings of Christ to His people in the New World, to be added to and to clarify that which is recorded for our guidance in the Bible. The Priesthood of God was re-established on earth, giving men the authority to officiate in the ordinances of His Gospel as of old.

This prophecy of John the Revelator was not fulfilled until a boy born in Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont, in 1805, had occasion, when he was 14 years of age, and residing with his parents in Manchester, New York, to resolve the differences in religious beliefs that were apparent during the strife and contention of religious revival in the community in which the boy lived. Should he join the Presbyterians, Methodists, or Baptists, was the question. While reading the Bible one day, with the hope of finding an answer to this problem, the boy read the first chapter and fifth verse of the epistle of James:

**"If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."**

The boy, Joseph Smith, later said: "Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man, than this did at this time to mine."

There were two courses open to this boy—to remain in darkness or follow the counsel of the Apostle James, so clearly set forth. The faith, devotion, and sincere desire of the boy to know the truth led him to follow the latter course. His own account of what followed, as he knelt in the woods to pray for wisdom, thrills all who read it with a sincere desire to know the truth.

**"After I had retired to the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction."**

**"But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvellous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which decended gradually until it fell upon me."**

**"It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, pointing to the other—'This is my Beloved Son. Hear Him.'"**

**"My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right—and which I should join."**

**"I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personages who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.'"**

Thus the heavens were again opened and the Gospel was restored to the earth by our Heavenly Father, through the instrumentality of his Prophet, Joseph Smith, in its fullness in this The Dispensation of the Fullness of Times.

We who have received a testimony of the divinity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the truthfulness of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, know that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ. We have a New Witness for God. Little wonder we proclaim to the world now, as we have for more than a century, that we believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

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## LET US PRAY

—continued from page 261

When the Master gathered His disciples at the foot of the Mount and delivered His magnificent Sermon, He taught them how to pray. "Enter into thy closet," said He, "and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." (Matt. 6: 6) Prayer is a personal communion with God. It is the pathway to power. It is the road to deliverance.

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## ALEPPO—A LATTER-DAY BRANCH IN THE WORLD OF OLD

—continued from page 271

in their midst. Aleppo Branch President Abraham Hindoian tells of a dying woman healed through the instrumentality of Elder Vezirian.

Our brothers and sisters in Syria have been earnest and faithful in carrying on the work of the Lord in the Old World. Although they are geographically isolated from all large bodies of Saints, their hearts are united with Latter-day Saints throughout the earth. May our Heavenly Father watch over the Saints of Aleppo and bless them in all their undertakings. We here in Great Britain pray that the Palestine-Syrian Mission will prosper and that many more souls will embrace the Gospel truths in this part of our Lord's vineyard.

# THE CHURCH AND THE PRESS IN BRITAIN

THE following are excerpts from recent publications in Great Britain pertinent to the Church:

**Evening Standard**

"BRIGHAM YOUNG'S EMPIRE—100 TO-DAY—Salt Lake City, Thursday.—One hundred years ago to-day Brigham Young, leader of a weary wagon train of Mormon pilgrims, raised himself on his elbow in the wagon in which he had been lying ill all through the Rocky Mountains, raised the flap and looked out.

"What he saw was a vast glaring white plain in which the Great Salt Lake shone like a mirror. And to the rough group around him he said: 'It is enough. This is the place.'

"To-day the State of Utah is celebrating the arrival of the first Mormons and its own 100th birthday. Young's historic words appear on a huge centennial monolith in Emigration Canyon, at the spot where the Mormons first set eyes on the valley.

"They appear on buntings in the streets of every Utah town and they are embossed on the licence plate of every Utah car.

"To-day Utah has reason for pride. It is admitted by all Americans to be one of the best-run of all the 48 States.

"Here in the clean and modern Salt Lake City the most imposing building is the massive Mormon Temple.

"High above it, on the highest pinnacle, is the statue of an angel called Moroni. . . .

"In 100 years, by no means other than hard work, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has wrested a fruitful empire out of the wilderness."

**Evening News**

"EILEEN TRAVIS AMONG THE MORMONS—St. George, Utah, Thursday.— . . . We leave here tomorrow for Nevada and California, but I doubt if I will meet a people like the Mormons again in many a long day. As some people talk business, or politics, fashion or films, exports or imports, or 'what to have for the next meal,' so Mormons talk about their religion—and in the manner of people who discuss something alive, something vitally necessary to their existence. That, to me, came as the greatest surprise in Utah.

"The canyons, the mountains, the indescribably brilliant red of the earth, the hills, mountains and towering cliffs have been much publicised here and thousands of motorists from all over America speed over the good roads and fish and shoot on vacation in the Bryce or Zion National Parks thousands of feet above sea level.

"Until we entered Utah I had not seen a single church spire on the horizon as we drove along through five States. Yet the building that dominates this little town is a huge white Mormon temple built by Mormon pioneers in the days of their direst poverty and hardship. The town is only 68 years old. The church, lovely in the daytime, is breathtaking at night when its whiteness is lighted by huge electric searchlights hidden in its lovely grounds and gardens.

"Brigham Young sent the first party of 'Saints' here and they formed a community to grow cotton. Now, instead, they grow peaches, apples, grapes, plums, pears, there are farmers and ranchers and cattlemen; cowboys and Indians. . . .

"These people are proud, kindly and charitable and generous and deeply

religious. They are fun-loving and human. Church leaders teach dancing and painting and games, for recreation they believe to be as important as intensely hard work. Smoking and drinking, however, are taboo, and the only drink served publicly in Utah is weak beer. . . .

"So, unless you have an unquenchable thirst, this is a good, good country. The people impressed me as a group who have clung to a high standard of sanity, good sense and good taste."

**Evening Standard**

"MORMON CENTENARY — Nauvoo, Illinois, Wednesday.—In 1847, the first 148 Mormons, led by Brigham Young, crossed the Mississipi and headed West to new homes in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Today 148 Mormons left Nauvoo following the same road West, to join in centenary celebrations. The Mormons, every one of whom claims to be a descendant of the original party, are travelling in 72 cars decorated to resemble covered wagons."

**Eastern Evening News**

"BASKETBALL COACH.— . . . I hear that an American now living in Norwich is going to give coaching in basketball at the Y.M.C.A. in St. Giles. A number of Norwich men are interested, and matches are to be played.

"The young man who is to be the coach is Mr. William L. Blackwell of Marysvale, Utah, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is conducting a six-month mission in the city with Mr. George W. Palmer of Vale, Oregon.

"When I told them that the name 'Mormon' still conjured up in our minds vision of polygamy, Mr. Palmer laughed. To stamp out that idea, he said, was one of their hardest tasks. . . ."

**Evening Standard**

"NEW MORMON CAMPAIGN — Mormons have opened a determined campaign for British converts . . . More than 100 American missionaries have been granted permits to come here; and this number will be doubled this year.

"Chief missionary here is a Utah farmer-cum-politician, Mr. Selvoy J. Boyer. His headquarters are in Balham . . .

"Head of the mission to Europe is also in London, Mr. A. Sonne, who is Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and also president of the N. Utah First National Bank . . .

"Belief that all Mormons practise polygamy is out of date. Polygamy has been outlawed since before the 1914-18 war."

**Free Press (Pontypool)**

"MORMON MISSIONARIES ARE HERE AGAIN—Elders of the Mormon faith have again settled in the Eastern Valley after a break of eight war years.

"They are two in number and reside in Rockhill Road, Pontypool. Before the second World War, Elders gained many converts in the Eastern Valley, particularly in the Garndiffaith-Varteg district, where services were regularly held.

"A great drive for converts in this country is taking place this year, the centenary of Brigham Young's founding of Salt Lake City, U.S.A., and there are at present more than 120 Mormon Missionaries in this country . . ."

**The Shields Gazette**

"LATTER-DAY SAINTS TALK. — Three Latter-day Saints, Messrs. K. M. Oswald, Douglas W. Loosle and G. Merkley, yesterday visited Talbot Memorial House, South Shields, and showed the Technicolour film 'Utah' and gave an outline of the Latter-day Saints' movement.

"About 60 members of the Talbot Memorial House Association greatly enjoyed the film and talk and the visitors were thanked by Mr. J. S. Fairley, chairman."

# BOOKS — for all to read

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# ILLUSTRATIONS OF I NEPHI (III)

**THE VISION OF NEPHI I.**

[Painting by J. Leo Fairbanks

"As I sat pondering in mine heart I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord . . . and I saw the heavens open and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdeth thou? And I said a Virgin most beautiful and fair . . . and I looked and beheld the Virgin again, bearing a child in her arms . . . And I looked again and beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men . . . I beheld that the rod of iron which my father had seen was the word of God. And I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world and it fell, and the fall was exceeding great. . . . Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues and people that shall fight the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb."

(I Nephi, Chap. 11)